



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/641,769	08/14/2003	Haimian Cai	10541-1781	2806
57444	7590	04/21/2006	EXAMINER	
AUTOMOTIVE COMPONENTS HOLDINGS, LLC c/o MACMILLAN SOBANSKI & TODD One Maritime Plaza, Fourth Floor 720 Water Street Toledo, OH 43604-1853			DUNN, DAVID R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3616	
DATE MAILED: 04/21/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/641,769	CAI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	David Dunn	3616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2006.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 2,3,5,8-13,16,17,19 and 20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,4,6,7,14,15 and 18 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is responsive to the amendment filed February 22, 2006.

### *Election/Restrictions*

1. Claims 2, 3, 5, 8-13, 16, 17, and 19 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on November 29, 2005.
2. Newly added claim 20 is directed to the non-elected species of Figure 4; and therefore is hereby withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
4. Claims 1, 4, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraps (US 5,876,148) in view of Kincad et al. (US 6,308,972).

Kraps discloses a stabilizer bar comprising: a body (1); an end link (3; see Figure 2) having a bore (3a) on which the stabilizer bar body is supported by a spherical bearing (8); the first end of the end link is secured to the stabilizer bar (by the bearing and boot 9). The boot (9) frictionally engages the outer surface of the stabilizer bar.

Kraps fails to show the first end of the end link having a concave spherical inner support surface.

Kincad et al. teaches an end link (32) having a first end having a concave spherical inner support surface (42; see Figure 2), the inner support surface attached to the stabilizer bar body.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Kraps with the teachings of Kincad et al. to provide the end of the end link with a concave spherical inner support surface in order to provide a better seat for the ball end of the stabilizer bar.

5. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraps in view of Kincad et al. as applied to claims 1 and 4 above, and further in view of Joerg et al. (US 6,257,602).

The combination of Kraps and Kincad et al. is discussed above but fails to show a lock washer.

Joerg et al. teaches a lock washer (4) used to frictionally engage the outer surface of a body.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Kraps and Kincad et al. with the teachings of Joerg et al. to provide a lock washer on the stabilizer body between the end link and the end of the stabilizer bar to securely fasten the end link to the bar.

6. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraps in view of Kincad et al. as applied to claims 1 and 4 above, and further in view of Hynds (US 5,064,216).

The combination of Kraps and Kincad et al. is discussed above but fails to show the bearing by a polymeric material.

Hynds discloses a stabilizer bar and end link (10) with a spherical bearing (24), the bearing being formed of a polymeric material (see column 2, lines 41-45).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Kraps and Kincad et al. with the teachings of Hynds to provide the bearing of a polymeric material in order to provide an old and well known, light-weight and durable material.

7. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraps in view of Kincad et al. as applied to claims 1 and 4 above, and further in view of Wolf et al. (US 6,363,613).

The combination of Kraps and Kincad et al. is discussed above but fails to show the bearing secured with an adhesive.

Wolf et al. teaches a stabilizer bar (13) with a bearing (9) secured to the bar with an adhesive (12).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Kraps and Kincad et al. with the teachings of Wolf et al. to provide an adhesive to better secure the bearing to the stabilizer bar.

#### *Response to Arguments*

8. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

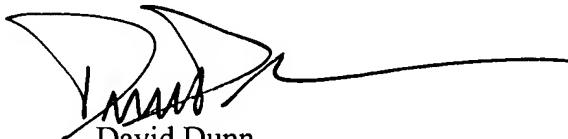
9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Dunn whose telephone number is 571-272-6670. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on 571-272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David Dunn  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3616